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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00906 180954 Z

14
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSR-01

/115 W
---------- 098688
O P 180922 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8880
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 717

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 906

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PASS USIA/ IAA

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, MOPS, RH, ZA
SUBJ: RHODESIAN SEARCH OPERATION PROCEDES WITHOUT INCIDENT

REF: LUSAKA 899 (NOTAL)

1. RHODESIAN RESCUE/ SEARCH PARTY MAY 17 SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT BODY
OF CANADIAN GIRL SINCLAIR OUT OF ZAMBEZI GORGE AT VICTORIA FALLS.
RHODESIANS DID NOT FIND BODY OF OTHER GIRL AND NOW BELIEVE IT
NOT IN THAT PART OF GORGE. ALTHOUGH UNITS OF RHODESIAN AND
ZAMBIAN ARMIES REPORTEDLY FACED EACH OTHER ACROSS GORGE WHILE
SEARCH OPERATION UNDERWAY, NO FURTHER INCIDENT OCCURRED.
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2. EMBOFF LEARNED FROM CANADIAN MISSIONARY RESIDENT LIVINGSTONE THAT MAY 15 SHOOTING WITNESSED BY PERSONS NEAR POWER PLANT ZAMBIAN SIDE OF RIVER. SOURCE, DR. THEODORE TUCKER, FORMER HEAD OF AFRICA DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, NEW YORK, RELIABLY INFORMED THAT WITNESSES SOUGHT EXPLANATION FROM ZAMBIAN TROOPS WHY THEY FIRING AT " EUROPEAN WOMEN" OTHER SIDE OF GORGE. BASED ON TIME INCIDENT OCCURRED, TUCKER BELIEVES REGULAR TROOPS RATHER THAN PARA- MILITARY INVOLVED IN INCIDENT. SAYS GRZ OFFICIALS IN LIVINGSTONE MOST LIKELY KNEW OF INCIDENT BY LATE MAY 15.

3. TOWN OF LIVINGSTONE QUIET YESTERDAY. TUCKER CONFIRMED REPORTED MOVEMENT OF ZAMBIAN TROOPS IN AREA. SAID HE AND OTHERS HAVE URGED LOCAL OFFICIALS MAKE CLEAN BREAST OF MATTER RATHER THAN ATTEMPT COVERUP. HAS SUGGESTED THAT ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON
CONTACT FAMILIES OF THOSE INJURED/ KILLED TO APOLOGIZE ON BEHALF GRZ.

4. COMMENT: RHODESIA OUT TO MAKE AS MUCH POLITICAL CAPITAL AS POSSIBLE FROM WEEK' S EVENTS. RADIO RHODESIA CLAIMED YESTERDAY THAT GUERRILLAS FROM ZAMBIA RESPONSIBLE FOR MAY 15 LAND MINE INCIDENT IN MANA POOLS GAME RESERVE IN NORTHWESTERN RHODESIA NEAR ZAMBIAN BORDER WHICH RESULTED IN DEATH OF WHITE CIVILIAN. REFERRING TO ALLEGED ASSURANCE RE GUERRILLA ACTIVITY WHICH RHODESIA RECEIVED FROM GRZ IN FEBRUARY, COMMENTATOR SAID IT OBVIOUS PRESIDENT KAUNDA NO MORE ABLE CONTROL GUERRILLAS THAN HE IS HIS OWN ARMY.

5. RHODESIANS MAY GOAD GRZ INTO SOME KIND OF STATEMENT BEFORE IT SURE OF ITS GROUND. TEMPTATION ACT LIKELY HEIGHTENED DUE TO ATTENTION ATTRACTED BY UNSYG WALDHEIM ARRIVAL HERE MONDAY, MAY 21. MIGHT WELL CONCLUDE FAILURE RESPOND TO RHODESIANS PROMPTLY WOULD BE SELF- INCRIMINATING. RESULT COULD BE HASTY FABRICATION, FROM WHICH IT DIFFICULT FOR GRZ EXTRICATE ITSELF TO DETREMENT OWN IMAGE AND RELATIONS WITH U. S. AND CANADA. MAY SEIZE ON DIVERSIONARY SMOKESCREEN APPEARING IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY MAIL TODAY. PAPER FEATURES MRS. CARRUTHER' S STATEMENT IN REUTERS REPORT SHE " SAW NO SOLDIERS" AND INDIAN AMBASSADOR SAMAR SEN SUGGESTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY MAY 19 TOURISTS SHOULD NOT BE IN RHODESIA. LATTER ECHOS COMMENT
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MADE TO CHARGE YESTERDAY BY MOFA UNDERSECRETARY CHIMUK (LUSAKA 898 NOTAL).
NELSON

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TAGS: CASC, MOPS, RH, ZA
To: AF
CAPE TOWN
DURBAN
GABORONE
JOHANNESBURG
LONDON
OTTAWA

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